

What education means to me.

Education to me is a broad term. Education can mean learning your Basic English and arithmetic skills in a public school setting, as well as furthering your education with a college experience. But to me neither one of these really represents an education. Simply getting an education is almost pointless. Education to me means knowing what you want to do or have an idea of such aspirations and then doing and learning what is necessary to accomplish those goals. For instance if you wanted to be a carpenter you would not go to college and get a degree in history. Simply doesn't make sense even if you are boarding your education background. If your end goal is carpentry you would be an apprentice maybe attend a trade school, either way you are gaining knowledge in a field that you desire there for you are being educated. Education doesn't mean that everyone will know the same things nor should they. Every individual needs to strive to succeed at what they desire, playing off their strengths and weaknesses.

My education from the beginning.

One of the biggest impacts in my life has always been music. Though I love computers and technology and it is one of my great strengths. Music has always been in my sole. From the time that I started tapping my toes to any beat I heard I knew as well as my family knew that there was only going on real route to take. When I was about four years old my grandmother began teaching me basic notes on the piano and gradually challenged me more and more. My grandmother was a simple woman who lived on a farm her entire life. And played piano and the organ semiprofessionally. She used to tell me "you have to play, before you go out and play" this might sound contradicting but her point was clear. I was to study the piano before I could enjoy myself outside. After looking back on this point in my life I realized that it was forced upon me to gain knowledge of music and this instrument in particular. But it has never been detrimental to my musical education development. Her constant pressure to learn sanded more than just music and for much more than my childhood. It taught me drive and desire both of which I believe to be essential in the development of myself as a person and continued to drive me in educating myself in many ways. I've always had a desire to learn regardless of what it was. Whether it's music, art, welding, woodworking, or computers and networking. My grandmother's pressure helped shape me into a rounded vessel for knowledge. If there is anything I have learned is that you will never know everything but if what you want to do is learn then the only thing stopping you is yourself.

My current educational standings.

As I grew older and wanted to continue my study of music I decided that I wanted to play guitar. This was without a doubt one of the greatest decisions that I have ever made in my life. Initially I liked the idea of a challenge in learning something that was well outside of my comfort level. I played every day following along in books and playing along with the record player or radio. I enjoyed the idea that the guitar is used in such a vast way. For example if you take two strong character guitarists and put them side by side they will play the same but completely different. The sound may be in no way similar but the same notes could be hit. This opened my mind to new possibilities and that maybe I was looking at the instrument all wrong.

The guitar has become an extension of myself as well as an outlet for any sort of emotion. I use it to represent struggle. Not just in the sense that it took a while to master but it is who I am and I struggle in life. The guitar is a part of me there for it struggles as well. Whether it is the stress of school, work, my time in the military, or sickness. Every day is a struggle and every day I play. I have no real aspirations of becoming a famous musician but I don't think that, that is what I was meant to do. I believe that music

was what I needed and continue to need threw out my life. Reminding me who I am where I came from and what is important to me. It reminds me of the struggles and knowledge that I have gained and desired to learn. An example of this is my first time on stage. I came up on a stage in Fort Worth Texas. In front of a crowd of 200-300 people. Most of which were complete strangers. I was a nervous wreck. I was shanking and sweating it was even difficult to think in my own head. I saw the hot stage lights pouring down on me as well as the faces of individuals in the crowd. Then all of a sudden the drummer started making time and I struck my first chord. As everything washed away. I was confident in my abilities I knew the songs and I knew how to entertain. After our first song the crowd applauded and cheered, it was at that moment that I knew I was in love with the show, it was where I was meant to be. And that is what education means to me. Struggling to make something from nothing learning all that you can and being the best that you can be. When you set your mind on a goal and watch the desired solution unfold the pride that you get from accomplishing something with a skill set or knowledge that you have gained is priceless.

Will I continue to educate myself?

I don't believe that I have a choice. I will learn and live new experiences till the day I leave this world and that's the only way I know how. For this point in my life I have chosen a conductor's wand to represent my future. A conductor of a symphony orchestra must be greatly educated on every aspect of the music and all instruments in their orchestra. It to me seems like the pinnacle of accomplishment. I have desire to continue my education at a college level and wish to receive a masters in computer engineering. Another struggle that I will embrace with open arms. I will never stop betting myself. I also would like to have a family at some point. I think it is a good metaphor for that as well. You should lead your family in the best way that you know how. Teach them from your experiences and help them gain their own. That is what education means to me and one day I will be proud to wave my conducting wand to anyone in my orchestra as long as there is drive.